

What is claimed is:

1. A method of assisting the reading of alphanumeric characters on a display of a digital device, wherein the alphanumeric characters are displayed in horizontal rows and/or columns, the method comprising:  
receiving a user selection of a position in the displayed alphanumeric characters;  
and  
visually emphasising a row or column corresponding to the selected position in the displayed alphanumeric characters to assist the reading of the alphanumeric characters in said row or column.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said row or column is visually emphasised by displaying an opaque bar adjacent to said row or column.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said bar is displayed between said row or column and an adjacent row or column.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said row or column is visually emphasised by highlighting said row or column.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said row or column is visually emphasised by magnifying said row or column.
6. A method according to claim 1, including receiving a user request to move the visual emphasis to another row or column respectively when the user has finished reading the alphanumeric characters in said row or column.
7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said user request comprises a drag operation using a pointing device.
8. A method according to claim 1, including initially receiving a user selection to enable the visually emphasis of a row or column to assist reading.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said visual emphasis stays with the row or column of alphanumeric characters if the row or column is moved in the display.
10. A method according to claim 1, including receiving user input comments for association with the row or column, and displaying the input comments on the display when the row or column is visibly emphasised.
11. A method according to claim 2, including receiving user input comments for association with the row or column, and displaying the input comments in said bar.
12. A method according to claim 10, including initially receiving a user selection to enable the visually emphasis of a row or column to assist reading, and receiving a user selection to enable the input of comments.
13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the alphanumeric characters are displayed in a spreadsheet and said row comprises a row of cells and said column comprises a column of cells.
14. A method according to claim 1, wherein the alphanumeric characters are displayed in a text processing application and said row comprises a line of text and said column comprises a column of text.
15. Apparatus for assisting the reading of alphanumeric characters on a display of a digital device, wherein the alphanumeric characters are displayed in horizontal rows and/or columns, the apparatus comprising:
  - user input means for receiving a user selection of a position in the displayed alphanumeric characters; and
  - display control means for controlling the display to visually emphasise a row or column corresponding to the selected position in the displayed alphanumeric characters to assist the reading of the alphanumeric characters in said row or column.

16. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said display control means is adapted to control said display to visually emphasise said row or column by displaying an opaque bar adjacent to said row or column.

17. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said display control means is adapted to control said display to display said bar between said row or column and an adjacent row or column.

18. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said display control means is adapted to control said display to visually emphasise said row or column by highlighting said row or column.

19. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said display control means is adapted to control said display to visually emphasise said row or column by magnifying said row or column.

20. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said user input means is adapted to receive a user request to move the visual emphasis to another row or column respectively when the user has finished reading the alphanumeric characters in said row or column.

21. Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said user input means comprises a pointing device and said user request comprises a drag operation using said pointing device.

22. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said user input means is adapted to initially receive a user selection to enable the visually emphasis of a row or column to assist reading.

23. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said display control means is adapted to cause said visual emphasis to stay with the row or column of alphanumeric characters if the row or column is moved in the display.

24. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said user input means is adapted to receive user input comments for association with the row or column, and said display control means is adapted to control said display to display the input comments when the row or column is visibly emphasised.

25. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said user input means is adapted to receive user input comments for association with the row or column, and said display control means is adapted to control said display to display the input comments in said bar.

26. Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said user input means is adapted to initially receive a user selection to enable the visually emphasis of a row or column to assist reading, and to receive a user selection to enable the input of comments.

27. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the alphanumeric characters are displayed in a spreadsheet and said row comprises a row of cells and said column comprises a column of cells.

28. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the alphanumeric characters are displayed in a text processing application and said row comprises a line of text and said column comprises a column of text.

29. A digital processing apparatus for assisting the reading of alphanumeric characters displayed in horizontal rows and/or columns, the apparatus comprising:  
a data memory storing data representing the alphanumeric characters;  
a display for displaying the alphanumeric characters in rows and/or columns;  
program memory storing program instructions for execution by a processor; and  
a processor for executing the program instructions stored in said program memory to operate on the data representing the alphanumeric characters stored in said data memory;

wherein said program instructions comprise instructions for controlling said processor to carry out the method of any one of claims 1 to 14.

30. A carrier medium carrying processor implementable instructions for execution by a processor in a digital apparatus to carry out the method of any one of claims 1 to 14.